

The costs of this bill would be devastating to Maryland's job creators, who are already struggling with a global pandemic and compounding financial implications of other state mandates. Personally as a small business owner and employer I don't see the rationale behind this bill. How are we expected to foot the implicated expenses of this bill in light of the drastic decreased revenue most of are experiencing. My business has seen a drop in revenue of between 20%-24% from 2019- 2020 comparably as a direct result of the pandemic. The said fact is that at these decreases my business has still out performed many others that have been far less fortunate. I am firm believer that the free market should dictate any potential hazard pay or increased benefits. In virtually any skillset or industry, especially those deemed essential, there is a direct correlation between a person's skill, ability, work ethic and job requirements to pay and benefits. I usually see pay commensurate with the demand, difficulty and potential hazards of a job. With this said a government mandate is not necessary and would only prove detrimental to Marylanders as a whole. When more businesses cannot afford the increased cost and burdens of a mandate like this, pay could actually decrease or the jobs could disappear as result. More Marylanders on unemployment is beneficial to no one. Maryland's employers cannot reasonably be expected to comply with the broad and unwell defined mandates contained within House Bill 581, especially when they continue to overcome the operational and economic implications of COVID-19.